

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Physalis carpenteri - Carpenter's groundcherry Nightshade Family (Solanaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G3

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: AL, FL, LA, MS

Recognition:

- Tall (to 1 m) perennials from rhizomes, scarcely branched
- Leaf-blades very thin, oval or ovate, abruptly contracted into a long acumination, glabrous on both surfaces with hairs restricted to the mid vein on upper surface and mid and main lateral veins on lower surface; margin entire or slightly wavy
- Inflorescences axillary with 2- to 4-flowered clusters, rather than solitary as in other *Physalis* spp.
- Corolla pale yellow, to 1 cm broad, open-campanulate (bell-shaped)
- Anthers short, 0.5 – 2.5 mm long
- Fruiting calyx (looks like a Chinese lantern) only about 1.5 cm broad, weakly inflated
- Berries globose, green then ripening yellowish

Flowering Time: May to September

Light Requirement: Shade to sun

Wetland Indicator Status:

Does not occur in wetlands anywhere in range

Habitat:

We have several records from the loess bluffs of the Tunica Hills and from Fluker's Bluff in St. Helena Parish. There are several other records from cutover and variously disturbed upland sites elsewhere in the Florida Parishes. Most of our records are over 30 years old. This species is ripe for a range-wide status survey.

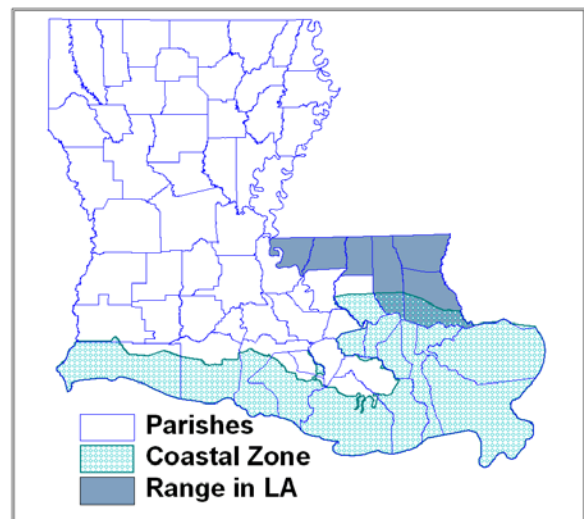
Threats:

Lack of status knowledge; specific threats unknown

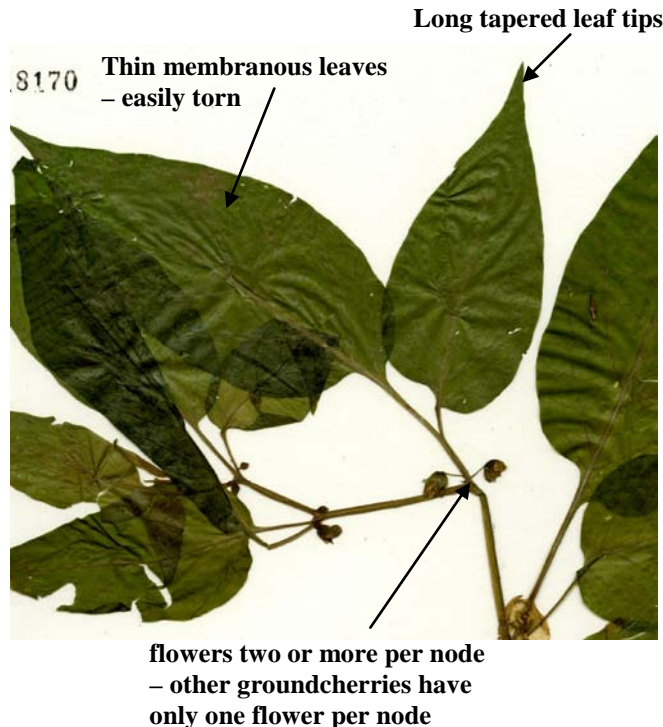
Beneficial Management Practices:

Conduct range-wide status survey

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain, Mississippi



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Specimen images courtesy of LSU Herbarium

References:

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- Clewell, A. F. Guide to the vascular flora of the Florida panhandle. University Presses of Florida/Florida State University Press, Tallahassee. 605 pp.
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- USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

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